



Samantha J. Kerkman

State Representative • Serving the 66th Assembly District

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Representative Kerkman Requests Audit of Family Care

Madison – State Representative Samantha Kerkman (R-Randall) has requested an audit of Wisconsin's Family Care program in light of a number of concerns and proposed cuts to the program that have surfaced in recent weeks.

In a letter to Sen. Kathleen Vinehout and Rep. Peter Barca, co-chairs of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, of which she is a member, Rep. Kerkman alluded to concerns expressed by providers within her district over contracting under Family Care and its lack of uniformity throughout the state. She also referenced concerns about delayed reimbursements to these providers. "I've been told that it can take months to be reimbursed," Rep. Kerkman stated in her letter.

Family Care was authorized by former Governor Tommy Thompson and the Legislature in 1998 in order to provide comprehensive, cost-effective long-term care services to people with physical and developmental disabilities as well as the elderly. According to the Legislative Fiscal Bureau, the program will receive almost \$955 million from 2009 – 2010, and more than \$1.4 billion from 2010 – 2011 as provided in the 2009-2011 State Budget.

"Given this significant increase in funding, there is no reason why providers should not be getting reimbursed for their services," said Rep. Kerkman. "I also have concerns with the contracting process that is in place and that this program is not using its taxpayer-funded resources efficiently."

Despite the increase in funding included within the budget, Family Care, along with SeniorCare, BadgerCare Plus, and other public-funded programs could face cuts up to \$1 billion. Currently, about \$6 billion is spent on all of these programs combined.

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